

AFRICAN PRIEST BECOMES A BORN AGAIN PREACHER

By Frank A. Eberhardt

Brother Ombui was born and raised in a very devout Roman Catholic family. His father was an influential man who sat on the parish council. The local priest was the one who encouraged him to enter the priesthood, and his family felt honored at the opportunity.

After several years studying near Nairobi, while he was praying before a statue of Mary, he realized that something did not add up. Daily in his prayers he would quote from the Psalms and he remembered **Ps.115:3-8** “*But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.*”

He was praying before a beautiful statue that could not see, hear, speak and answer nor help him in any way. From that time, he began earnestly studying the Scripture.

The seminary teaching priests would smoke and become drunk like all the non-Christians he knew. They seemed to do everything that the heathen did and still claim to be living for Christ. This made him question what type of a Christian he himself would be. Would he live a holy life separated from sin and the world? The only source he knew to tell him how to live a Christian life was the Scriptures which he was now reading regularly.

Although there were unanswered questions in his heart, he was ordained a priest and assigned to his home parish in Narie, Kenya where he served for several years.

There, as the Assistant Pastor, he began a Bible Study with like minded parishioners. This study revealed to them the false nature and origins of the Roman Catholic system in the light of Scripture. **Isa 8:20** “*To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*”

He realized the truth taught in God’s word that all men are sinners in need of eternal life through Christ alone. **Rom 3:23** “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*” and **Rom 6:23** “*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Then he understood that it was not his good works that would allow him into heaven, but it is purely the grace of God in Christ.

Eph 2:8-9 “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*”

When he recognized that there was no other door to heaven other than the person God had provided, he saw himself as a sinner headed for destruction without Christ. **John 14:6** “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” It was during this time that he accepted Christ as his only Saviour.

As he prepared to resign and leave the Roman Catholic Church, a visiting priest arrived with funds from the diocese. The funds would have eased the impoverished condition of the people and provided him with comforts he had never had, but there was no question what brother Ombui had to do! **1 Tim 6:10** “*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*”

Because he desired to leave the priesthood and Catholicism, the bishop required him to come and answer for his actions. The bishop told him that he was following bad and evil things. He responded, “How can following the Bible and the words of Christ be evil?”

They put him in prison for preaching the Gospel, but after six weeks, the prison magistrate presented him with a letter of release. They could no longer hold him since he had broken no laws. After being released, he remained in his home area a few more years.

In 1987 he found our ***Gospel Outreach*** address in the *Sword of the Lord* and began corresponding with our ministry. He never asked for money. His concerns were for good Christian books which he could use to study and teach from.

We sent him fundamental materials for studying the Scripture and Bible doctrines. During this time, he was growing under a sound American missionary in the Narie area when he felt the call to preach. After establishing four churches in the bush, he realized the need to be accountable not only before the Lord but before men as well. Because ***Gospel Outreach*** had continued to help him with Bible study aids, tracts and materials for his churches, he already felt accountable to our ministry and in 1992 was accepted as a full-time missionary with ***GO***.

As one of our missionaries Brother Ombui's doctrine is sound and fundamental. He has always been able to subscribe to our mission's doctrinal statement. He would best be considered an Independent Baptist or Bible pastor.

Additional Note:

Pastor Ombui went home to be with his Lord and Saviour in February of 2005 because of undiagnosed Tuberculosis. He left behind 19 established Churches, a Bible Institute we began in the year 2000 and a host of people who were saved under his ministry. Mary, his wife is still winning souls there in Kenya. Pastor Ombui's full testimony is available in tract form through ***GOSPEL OUTREACH INT. TO ROMAN CATHOLICS*** in both English and Spanish.